



Continental Marine

Spring 2003

Vol. 27, No. 1

Operation Enduring
Freedom

Mobilizations

CJTF - HOA

Features



Wash. – The family readiness team of 4th CEB receives the DoD Reserve Family Readiness Award.



Mich. – Reserve Marines from throughout the country prepare to support operations with CJTF-HOA.



Djibouti – The CLE, Marine Central Command, assumed control of base operations here with the arrival of the last 90 members of the unit.



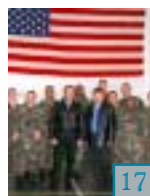
Kuwait – Marines with 4th CAG prepare to move from here to Task Force Tarawa's forward area in An Nasiriyah, Iraq.



N.Y. – Reserve Marines and sailors of 2nd Fleet here, begin preparations for deployment to Southwest Asia.



Marine Forces Reserve Units mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other contingencies.



N.C. – Rusty Wallace and John Andretti stop to thank the Marines for the contribution they are making to their country.



N.C. – Sgt. Blair receives callback from the Corps after two years of inactive duty to do what he does best.



N.C. – Reserve Marines with 1st Fleet receive NBC training for possible deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

On the Covers



Front: Djibouti - Lance Cpl. Burkholder makes his way out of an abandoned bunker. Photo by Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi



Back: Djibouti - Djiboutian children hold bags of snacks provided by CLE. Photo by Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi.

Departments

3 Command page

4 News Line

Also Inside

14 ISB created

15 Marine passes Bar

Marine Forces Reserve

Commander: Lt. Gen. D.M. McCarthy
Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. R.W. Dixon

Public Affairs Office

Director: Col. D. M. Dempsey
Deputy Director: A. R. Foucha
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. J. D. Edwards

"Continental Marine" Staff

Media Officer: Maj. C. C. Dysart
Asst. Media Officer: Capt. J. S. Pool
Media Chief: Sgt. J. M. Antoine
Editor: Cpl. R. J. Skaggs
Correspondent: Sgt. R. W. Henderson
Correspondent: Cpl. D. J. McGee
Correspondent: Cpl. M. J. Apprendi
Correspondent: Cpl. L. D. Waters
Correspondent: Cpl. M. M. Martinez
Correspondent: LCpl. P. L. Bass

Editor's note: We need your help to tell the Marine Corps story! Send us any photos you may have from your Annual Training, along with background information on your AT and unit to Webmaster@mfr.usmc.mil. Get published in the Continental Marine. For more information, call (504) 678-0703.

"Continental Marine" (USPS 013357) is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, Marine Forces Reserve, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70146-5400. This Department of Defense magazine is an authorized, unofficial publication for members of the military services. Contents of "Continental Marine" are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps. This publication is produced commercially in accordance with the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps publications and printing regulations with government appropriated funds. Visit "Continental Marine" online at <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil>. Editorial staff may be reached at (504) 678-4179. Periodicals postage paid at New Orleans, LA 70113, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to: Public Affairs Office, Marine Forces Reserve, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70146-5400.

Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve

A Message to our Marine Corps Families

As all of us now know, hostilities have begun in Iraq and Marines and Sailors from our Force are an essential part of the Marine team.

These two facts intensify the concern that all of our families feel. As the Commander who sent these Marines and Sailors forward, and as the father of a Marine who is deployed in that area of operations, I fully share those concerns.

I sincerely believe that every member of this Force who has been mobilized has been fully prepared to do so. Their training, equipment and individual readiness have been first rate. The officers and non-commissioned officers who are leading them are men and women of high personal and professional standards.

Each mobilized unit has left behind a team of Marines on active duty who will support the Marine Forces Reserve families in their areas – including families of their unit members, families of the members of other units (both active and reserve) who reside in their area, and families of mobilized Individual Ready Reserves. Each of you should know how to contact your local Marine Forces Reserve center. If you don't know, you can locate the training centers in your state and their phone numbers using the map-link located on the Marine Forces Reserve website @ www.mfr.usmc.mil.

Other tools for the use of our families can also be found on this page. Please do not hesitate to use



I sincerely believe that every member of this Force who has been mobilized has been fully prepared to do so. Their training, equipment and individual readiness have been first rate. The officers and non-commissioned officers who are leading them are men and women of high personal and professional standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dennis M. McCarthy".

them, and to reach out to your Marine Corps.

Marine Forces Reserve is also creating a "virtual" Marine Corps Community Service (MCCS) web page. It will be a "one-stop-shop" for your information needs. Items of particular interest are:

- MCCS One Source, a 24-hour information and referral service, www.mccsonesource.com, USER ID: "Marines" PASSWORD: "Semper Fi".
- MCCS Family Assistance toll free line: (866) 305 - 9058.
- For Commanders, Peacetime Wartime Support Team personnel and Site Support personnel, please see the MCCS Community and Family Assistance Crisis Response Template.

You may be experiencing some delays in mail flowing to and from your deployed family member. Please be patient. This week I spoke directly with our commander in Kuwait, Lieutenant General Earl Hailston. He is personally committed to speeding up the flow of mail and packages. He and his staff will work tirelessly to make this happen.

Keep up your spirits and your courage. Your deployed Marines and Sailors – wherever they may be – are strong, capable and well supported. We will all prepare to welcome them home with full honors when the job is done.

Semper Fidelis

Big Easy hosts Executive Safety Board

Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans — The Marine Corps Executive Safety Board met here Jan. 7 - 8, for the first of its biannual meetings to discuss strategies to better reduce both on- and off-duty safety mishaps throughout the Corps.

The ESB began in fiscal year 2000 and is chaired by Gen. William L. Nyland, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, as part of a proactive approach to risk management and potential mishap elimination. The



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

General William L. Nyland, Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps, concentrates during discussions at the

ESB consists of commanding generals from operational commands, major bases and supporting organizations. Their ongoing mission is to provide safety policy and guidance for the Corps.

“This is a chance for the senior general-officers to meet and discuss policies and procedures to determine better methods for decreasing safety mishaps and fatalities,” said Col. Henry C. Dewey III, director of safety division, Headquarters Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan, published by the ESB, sets the Corps on a course to reduce mishaps while increasing our safety readiness and combat effectiveness. By sponsoring events such as the recent “Click it or Ticket” seatbelt campaign, the ESB wants to instill the idea that Marines, of all ranks, must maintain a constant vigil against unsafe actions, practices or situations.

Reenergizing the Corps’ efforts to incorporate Operational Risk Management to better integrate operations and safety is one of the

many other focal points for the ESB.

The Marine Corps Safety Awards Program provides recognition of commands and personnel for significant contributions and accomplishments made in the field of safety and mishap prevention. Just as Marines are held accountable for failures, Marines are recognized for their success.

According to White Letter No. 10-00 by Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, safety and operations must intertwine in such a manner that risk management and safety are a part of the planning and execution of all missions, exercises and daily evolutions. Risk awareness must be increased through aggressive training. Safety must become an enduring principle for the Marine Corps.

“We are continuously reevaluating our procedures to discover more ways to establish policies and recommend proposals to improve safety programs and enhance readiness,” said Dewey.



The results of the 55th annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign, conducted during October, November and December 2002, have been tabulated. U.S. Marines distributed more than 12.9 million toys to more than 5.7 million children nationwide.

This was the fourth most successful campaign in the 55-year history of Toys for Tots- a monumental accomplishment in view of the nation’s economy.

Toys for Tots began with a single local campaign in Los Angeles in 1947. Fifty-five campaigns later in 2002, local Toys for Tots campaigns were conducted in 414

communities throughout the nation- the most extensive coverage in the history of the program.

Toys for Tots, the U.S. Marine Corps’ premier community action program and one of the nation’s flagship Christmas charitable causes, is dedicated to “delivering a message of hope and bringing the joy of Christmas” to America’s needy children.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, the fund raising support organization for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, supplemented the collections of local community campaigns with more than four million toys valued at \$28.7 million.

4th CEB earns DoD Family Readiness honors

SSgt. Cindy Fisher

HQMC Public Affairs Office

Cpl. Damian J. McGee

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON — The family readiness team of 4th Combat Engineer Battalion received the Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award as the premier unit for the Marine Corps Reserve in a ceremony at the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon Feb. 14.

Cyndee Gentry, the unit's key volunteer advisor, and Sarah Ortiz-Brown, a key volunteer coordinator for the unit, accepted the award from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall and Maj. Gen. Kevin B. Kuklok, the assistant deputy commandant for Plans, Policy and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps.

"Our group is honored to be receiving an award that supports such an important aspect of the Marine Corps...families," said Gentry. "Programs like these are so instrumental to the mission of the Marine Corps. If we take care of families, Marines have less to worry about and can do their jobs."

The DoD Reserve Family Readiness award was established in 2000 to recognize the top reserve unit in each branch of the Armed Forces that demonstrates outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness.

"One of the things this award recognizes is that we want to give support to the family when the



SSgt. Cindy Fisher

Maj. Gen. Kevin B. Kuklok and Thomas F. Hall present the 2002 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award for the Marine Corps Reserve to 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division.

servicemember is deployed," Secretary Hall said. "That is our sacred pledge to the mothers and fathers of America when they send their young sons and daughters to us; to take care of the servicemembers and take care of their families.

"Today, we have about 150,000 reservists and guardsmen mobilized. Family readiness, to me, has always been the vital element in our lives. We recruit servicemembers, but retain families," he said.

During the ceremony, 4th CEB was lauded for its robust family readiness program, which includes numerous key volunteers, a family readiness officer and the battalion chaplain. Providing family readiness support isn't an easy task for a reserve unit and requires a lot of hard work since most reserve members are not from the immediate area, according to Lt. Col. Robin Gentry, the Inspector-Instructor for 4th CEB.

The reserve battalion, part of

4th Marine Division, is headquartered in Baltimore, but the more than 800 reserves who make up the unit come from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee.

The success of 4th CEB's program can be directly

attributed to the unit's numerous key volunteers and servicemembers who work together to ensure every member of the reserve family is part of the network, Gentry said.

"I think the family team building concepts are very important and our unit has worked tirelessly to implement them. It was a team effort. We are here representing a group of people and I can't say enough good things about the wonderful group of volunteers responsible for making this work," Gentry said.

Gentry, who has been involved in Marine Corps Family Team Building for more than a decade, is proud to see the program becoming such an integral part of the Marine Corps mission. "It's now such a large part of the Marine Corps and is readily accepted," she said.

Currently, 4th CEB has about 30 Marines activated for Operation Enduring Freedom.



MARFORRES

News Line

MFR units activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom:

Alabama

Det A, Intelligence Battalion
L Company, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Arizona

Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Bulk Fuel Co. C, 6th Engineer Support
Bn.
Det. 7, Engineer Support Company, 6th
Engineer Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Bulk Fuel Co. A, 6th ESB
Det. 8, Engineer Support Co., 6th ESB

Arkansas

I Company, 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

California

Det. 2, Bulk Fuel Co. A, 6th ESB
Det. 10, Engineer Support Co., 6th ESB
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
I Marine Expeditionary Force Augmen-
tation Command Element
Det A, I MACE
Det B, I MACE
Det C, I MACE
3rd Civil Affairs Group
Det A, 3rd Civil Affairs Group
Det. C, 3rd Civil Affairs Group
Det A, 4th FSSG Forward (West)
Det B, 4th FSSG Forward (West)
Det. A, Headquarters and Service
Company, 4th Light Armored Recon-
naissance Bn.
A Company, 4th LAR Bn
H & S Co., 4th LAR Bn
Det.3, Counterintel/ Human Intel Co.
Peacetime Wartime support Team

(MFR)
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
(DIV)
Det 2 Platoon, Beach and Terminal
Operations Co. A, 4th Landing Support
Bn.
Det 4, Landing Support Equipment Co.
Det A, 4th LSB
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron
(HMH) 769
H & S Co., 2nd Bn., 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Marine Wing Support Squadron 473
Det A
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det 1, Co. B, 4th Landing Support Team
Det 2, Landing Support Equipment Co.
Det A, 4th Landing Spt. Bn.
Det 2, H & S Co. Det A, 4th LSB
3rd Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Com-
pany
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
G Co., 2nd Bn., 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
HQ, Marine Aircraft Group 46, MWSS
473
Det 1, Marine Air Support Squadron 6
Det
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 42
Det A
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
D Company, 4th Tank Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Weapons Co., 2nd Bn, 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Motor T Maintenance Co., 4th Maint.
Bn.
Det A, HQ Company (-), 23rd Marines
E Co., 2nd Bn., 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
H & S Co., 4th Medical Bn.
Det. 1, Counterintel/Human Intel Co.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det 1, BTO Co. A, 4th LSB

Air Delivery Plt, Beach and Terminal
Co. A, 4th LSB
Det 4, Landing Support Equip. Co., 4th
LSB
Det 4, H & S Co., 4th LS B
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Colorado

A Battery, 1st Bn, 14th Marines
Det. 1, Production and Analysis Co.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Production and Analysis Co.

Connecticut

Det, Direct Support Motor T Co. A, 6th
Motor T Bn.
Det, Direct Motor Support T Co. B, 6th
Motor T Bn.
Det. 6, H & S Co., 6th Motor T Bn
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
C Co., 1st Bn., 25th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

District of Columbia

Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence
Co.
4th Civil Affairs Group
Det. B, 4th Civil Affairs Group
Det C, 4th Civil Affairs Group
Det D, 4th Civil Affairs Group
Rations Co., 4th Supply Bn.
Det A, Rations Co., 4th Supply Bn.
Det B, Rations Co., 4th Supply Bn.
Surgical Company B, 4th Medical
Battalion

Delaware

Bulk Fuel Co. B, 6th ESB
Det 6, Engineer Support Co., 6th ES B
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

MARFORRES

News Line

Florida

B Co., 4th Assault Amphibian Bn.
Det. 3, H & S Co., 4th Assault Amphib.
Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det, H & S Co. (TOW/Scouts), 8th
Tank Bn
Det 5, Counterintel/Human intel Co.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Direct Spt. Motor T Co. A, 6th Motor T
Bn.
Det 1, General Support Motor T Co.,
6th Motor T Bn.
Det 2, H & S Co., 6th Motor T Bn.
Det, H & S Co., 4th Medical Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Liaison Training Branch Det, 4th MAW
H & S Co., 4th Assault Amphib Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
4th ANGLICO, Det A
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Georgia

Det. 2, Supply Co., 4th Supply
Battalion
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
2nd Direct Support Plt, Motor T Maint.
Co., 4th Maint. Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
HQ Co., Det. A, H & S Bn., 4th FSSG
HQ Co., Det. B, H & S Bn., 4th FSSG
Det, MAG 42
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 42
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det. 1, Ammunition Co., 4th Supply
Battalion
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
BTO Co. B , 4th LSB
BTO Co. B Det, 4th LSB
Det. 5, Landing Spt. Equip. Co., 4th
LSB
Det. 5, H & S Co., 4th Landing Support
Battalion
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Hawaii

4th Force Reconnaissance Co., Det A

Illinois

Marine Wing Communications Squad-
ron 48
MWCS 48 Det. A (rear)
MWCS 48 Det. A (Forward)
Marine Tactical Air Command Squad-
ron 48, Marine Air Control Group 48
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Engineer Co. C, 6th Engineer Support
Bn.
Det 5, Engineer Support Co., 6th ESB
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Indiana

Det 1, Comm. Co., H & S Bn., 4th
FSSG
Det 3, HQ Co., H & S Bn. ,4th FSSG
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det, Comm. Co., HQ Bn., 4th MarDiv
Det. 4, H & S Co., HQ Bn., 4th MarDiv
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Engineer Co. B, 6th ESB
Det. 4, Engineer Support Co., 6th ESB
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Kansas

2nd General Support Ammo.Plnt, Ammo.
Co., 4th Supply Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Electronics Maint. Co. Det A, 4th
Maint. Bn

Kentucky

A Co., 8th Tank Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Military Police Co. A, H &S Bn, 4th
FSSG
Det 4, HQ Co., H & S Bn, 4th FSSG
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Louisiana

Weapons Co., 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

HQ, 4th MAW, MP Det.
HQ, 4th MAW, MP Det. A
MALS 42 Det C
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
B Co., 1st Bn., 23rd Marines
4th MarDiv HQ
Det B, H & S Co., HQ Bn., 4th MarDiv
HQ, 4th MAW
HQ, 4th MAW, Det 1
HQ, 4th MAW, Det 2
HQ, 4th MAW, Det C
4th FSSG, Det. A
4th FSSG, Det. B
H & S Co., 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Massachusetts

H & S Co., 1st Bn., 25th Marines
Det, A Co., 1st Bn., 25th Marines
Wpns Co., 1st Bn., 25th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det 2, Marine Air Support Squadron 6
HQ Co., 25th Marines
Det 4, Counterintelligence/ Human
Intelligence Co.

Maryland

H & S Co., Det. A, 4th Combat Engi-
neer Bn
H & S Co., Det. B, 4th Combat Engi-
neer Bn
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
B Co., 4th LAR Bn.
Det. 1, H &S Co., 4th LAR Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Maine

A Co. 1st Bn., 25th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Michigan

Bridge Co. A, 6th Engineer Support Bn.

MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

Engineer Support Co., 6th Engineer Bn.
Det 1, H & S Co., 6th Engineer Support Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team
A Co., 1st Bn., 24th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
C Co., 1st Bn., 24th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
B Co., 1st Bn., 24th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
HQ Marine Wing Support Group 47
MWSS 471 Det B
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Minnesota

MWSS 471
Peacetime Wartime Support Team (Wing)
MP Co., HQ Bn., 4th MarDiv
Det. 5, H & S Co., HQ Bn., 4th MarDiv
Peacetime Wartime Support Team (Div)

Missouri

Det. HQ Co., 24th Marine Regiment
TOW Plt. Det, 24th Marines
Direct Support NBC Plt., 4th FSSG

Mississippi

4th Plt., A Co., 4th Assault Amphib. Bn.
Det. 2, H & S Co., 4th Assault Amphib. Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

North Carolina

II MEF Augmentation Command Element
Det A, II MACE
Det A, 4th FSSG Fwd (East)
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
H & Service Co. Det A, 4th Maint. Bn.
Comm. Co., H & S Bn., 4th FSSG
Det 1, HQ Co., H & S Bn., 4th FSSG

Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Supply Co. Det A, 4th Supply Bn.
Det B, Supply Co., 4th Supply Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det 1, BTO Co. A, 4th LSB
Det 1, BTO Co. B, 4th LSB
Det 6, Landing Spt. Equipment Co., 4th LSB
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Nebraska

Eng. Maint. Co. Det A, 4th Maint. Bn.

New Hampshire

B Co., 1st Bn., 25th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

New Jersey

G Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
H & S Co., 6th Motor T Bn.
Det 3, General Support Motor T Co., 6th Motor T Bn.
Det 9, HQ Co., H & S Bn., 4th FSSG
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

New Mexico

D Co., 4th Recon. Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Nevada

Wpns Plt., F Co., 2nd Bn, 23rd Marines
Bulk Fuel Plt, General Support Motor T Co., 6th Motor T Bn.
Det 4, H & S Co., 6th Motor T Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det 1, 4th Force Recon. Co.

New York

F Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Marines

Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Direct Spt. Comm. Co. A, 6th Comm. Bn.
HQ Co., 6th Comm. Bn.
Service Co., 6th Comm. Bn.
General Support Comm. Co., 6th Comm. Bn.
Det A, Gen Spt. Comm. Co., 6th Comm. Bn.
H & S Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Marines
Wpns Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Marines
Det 6, Counterintel/ Human Intel Co.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 452
Det A, VMGR 452
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
B Co., 8th Tank Bn.
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Ohio

Comm. Co., HQ Bn., 4th MarDiv
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
MP Co. C, H & S Bn., 4th FSSG
Det 6, HQ Co., H & S Bn., 4th FSSG
Mortuary Affairs Plt
Instructor Det, Mortuary Affairs Plt
Det, Wpns Co., 1st Bn., 24th Marines
Det. B, Wpns Co., 1st Bn., 24th Marines
Peacetime Wartime Support Team
Det. 7, Landing Support Equipment Co.
Det A, 4th LSB
Landing Support Equipment Co. Det A, 4th LSB

Oklahoma

TOW Section, Wpns Co., 2nd Bn., 23rd Marines
TOW Section, Wpns Co., 3rd Bn, 23rd Marines
TOW Section, Wpns Co., 1st Bn, 24th Marines
TOW Section, Wpns Co., 1st Bn, 25th

MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

Marines

TOW Section, Wpns Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Marines

Oregon

Engineer Co. A, 6th Engineer Support Bn.

Det 2, Engineer Support Co., 6th ESB

Det 2, H & S Co., 6th Engineer Support Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

H & S Co., 6th Engineer Support Bn.

Det 1, Engineer Support Co., 6th Engineer Support Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Pennsylvania

Det 2, Comm. Co., H & S Bn., 4th FSSG

Det 3, HQ Co., H & S Bn., 4th FSSG

1st and 2nd Plts., Truck Co., HQ Bn, 4th MarDiv

Det A, Truck Co., HQ Bn., 4th Marine Division

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Truck Co., HQ Bn., 4th MarDiv

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Bridge Co. B, 6th ESB

Det 3, Engineer Support Co., 6th ESB

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

E Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Marines

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

MWSS 471 Det A

MP Co. B, H & S Bn., 4th FSSG

Det 5, HQ Co., H & S Bn., 4th FSSG

Surgical Co. A, 4th Medical Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

HMH 772

Puerto Rico

Det 2, BTO Co. B, 4th LSB

Det 8, Landing Support Equipment Co., 4th LSB

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Rhode Island

General Spt. Motor T Co., 6th Motor T Bn.

Det 1, H & S Co., 6th Motor T Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

South Carolina

Det A, Ammo. Co., 4th Supply Bn.

Tennessee

Det, Surgical Co. A, 4th Medical Bn.

K Co., 3rd Bn., 23rd Marines

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Texas

TOW Det, H & S Co., 4th Tank Bn.

Det, HQ Battery, 14th Marines

Det, B Co., 4th Assault Amphibious Bn.

Det 4, H & S Co., 4th Assault Amphib. Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Wpns Plt., Det A, Co. B, 1st Bn., 23rd Marines

Direct Spt. Motor T Co. B, 6th Motor T Bn.

Det 5, H & S Co., 6th Motor T Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

HQ, MAG 41, Det A

ALD Det, MALS 41

VMGR 234

Det A, VMGR 234

MWSS 473 Det B

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

C Co., 4th Recon. Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Det 2, General Support Motor T Co., 6th Motor T Bn.

Det 3, H & S Co., 6th Motor Transport Battalion

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Ordnance Maint. Co. Det A, 4th Maint. Bn.

Utah

C Co., 4th LAR Bn.

Det 2, H & S Co., 4th LAR Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

F Co. (-), 2nd Bn., 23rd Marines

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Virginia

Marine Air Control Squadron 24 Det

Early Warning/Control Det, Tactical Air Ops. Center, MACS 24

Det 2, Counterintel/ Human Intel Co.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

A Co., 4th Assault Amphib. Bn.

Det 1, H & S Co., 4th Assault Amphib. Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

H & S Co., 4th Supply Battalion

Det, Surgical Co. B, 4th Medical Battalion

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

MALS 42 Det B

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

D Co., 4th LAR Bn.

Det 3, H & S Co., 4th LAR Bn.

Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Washington

H & S Co. Det A, 4th LSB

Det 1, Bulk Fuel Co. A, 6th Engineer Support Battalion

Det 9, Engineer Support Co., 6th Engineer Bn.

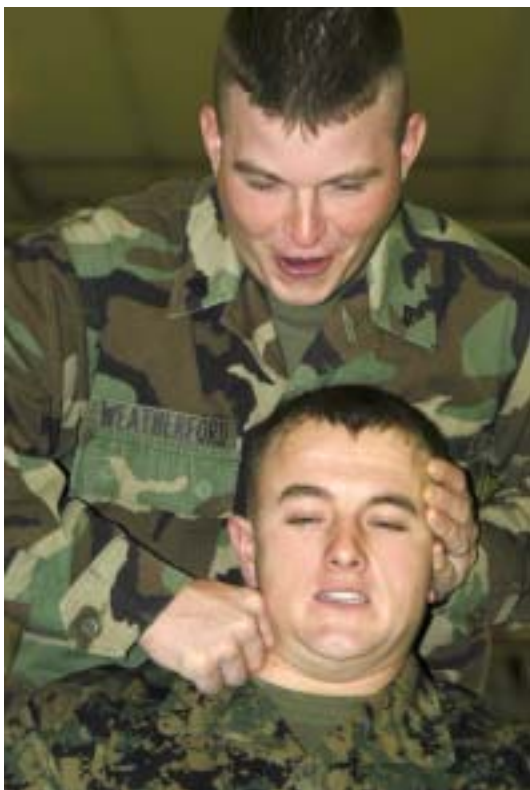
Peacetime Wartime Support Team

Wisconsin

Det, Bulk Fuel Co. B, 6th ESB

Det 11, Engineer Support Co., 6th ESB

Peacetime Wartime Support Team



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Corporal Charles R. Weatherford, TOW section, CLE, implements a non-lethal technique to a Marine during a pain compliance course held here.

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

SELFREDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mich.

Reserve Marines from throughout the country are here preparing to deploy to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Leathernecks will make up U.S. Marine Corps Central Command's Command Logistical Element-Horn of Africa. The force includes members of Headquarters, 4th Force Service Support Group, New Orleans; Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th FSSG, Marietta, Ga.; Military Police Detachment, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Belle Chasse, La.; Headquarters and Service Co., 4th Combat Engineer Bn., Baltimore, Md.; Company A, 1st Bn., 24th Marines, Grand Rapids, Mich. reinforced by a detachment from Weapons Co., 1st Bn., 24th Mar., Perrysburg, Ohio and a Tube Launched, Optically Tracked, Wire Guided (TOW) anti-

Preparing for the HOA

and Operation Enduring Freedom

armor missile section, Broken Arrow, Okla.; as well as individual Marines from other units.

"Our main responsibility will be base security," said Col. Mario LaPaix, commander, CLE-HOA. "We will keep our guards up, waiting for the unexpected to happen — keeping any form of enemy threat out."

To prepare, the Marines are conducting training in everything from non-lethal tactics to the use of deadly force.

"Every single class and training evolution we take here before leaving will make us that much more effective," said Cpl. Scott Zeilke, fire team leader, weapons platoon, CLE-HOA from Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Marines have also been refreshing their knowledge on Nuclear, Biological, Chemical warfare including practicing donning their gas masks and chemical biological protective clothing fast and properly.

"The one fear I have is chemical warfare — I know the Marine Corps has properly trained me in all aspects, and I am very confident in my abilities — but the fear still exists," said Lance Cpl. James M. Klingshirn, military policeman, CLE-HOA, who volunteered to deploy from his Lexington, Ky., unit.

Each Marine has to know how and also has to be able to employ these techniques at a moment's notice — military police to the administrative clerk — everyone, said Zeilke.

"Make no doubt, this is not a training exercise we are attending," said Sgt. Maj. John R. Jennings, sergeant major of CLE-HOA during a formation. "This is a real world operation — preparation

and accountability are everything."

The CLE-HOA force also includes 13 active duty Marines from Headquarters Battalion, MarForRes, New Orleans.

"This is my first time working a real world operation with reserves," said Cpl. Robert A. Simila, a network engineer from the MarForRes G-6, "but the term active or reserve doesn't apply anymore — we're all Marines tasked to complete the same mission."

"Reserves go from civilians to active duty at a flip of a coin to complete the same tasks active Marines do — you have to respect that," said Clingshirn, who eventually wants to go active.

The days are numbered until these Marines punch out to HOA. Each day and every hour counts, so they will continue to train and prepare until they receive the word to ship out as part of the coalition of forces against worldwide terrorism.

"The Marines of the past have already laid down the tracks of our warrior spirit," said Jennings. "All we have to do now is follow the same path, and we will come out on top."

CM



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Lance Cpl. Charles T. Patterson, admin clerk, CLE-HOA, helps a fellow Marine try on chemical protective clothing during an NBC class.

MFR UNITS TAKE CONTROL IN THE HORN OF AFRICA



Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Lance Cpl. Mike Moose, 2nd Platoon, CLE, stands post with a mounted .50 cal. heavy machine gun.

Maj. Jeffrey R. Jurgensen

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — The Command Logistics Element, Marine Central Command, assumed control of base operations here Feb. 9 with the arrival of the last 90 members of the unit.

The Command Logistics Element is comprised of approximately 300 Marines and sailors from the 4th Force Service Support Group, New Orleans; Military Police Detachment, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Belle Chasse, La.; and Company A, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Grand Rapids, Mich.; among others.

The command's members include logisticians, supply specialists, communication's specialists, military police,

medical personnel and a reinforced infantry company.

Many of the unit's Marines are reserves who were recently activated in support of the global war against terrorism. While at Camp Lemonier, CLE will operate in direct support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

The mission of CJTF-HOA is to detect, disrupt and defeat transnational terrorist groups in the region and support coalition partner efforts to deny the opportunity for the reemergence of terrorist networks in the Horn of Africa region.

"We will succeed," said Col. Mario LaPaix, commanding officer, CLE, "by maintaining a high security presence internally and externally."

LaPaix formally assumed command of Camp Lemonier, Jan. 26 after the initial members of the CLE arrived here. As commanding officer he places a high priority on working with the local community.

"We will continue to expand our community relations efforts," LaPaix said. "We want to fortify a good relationship between the local community and our presence here."

There are currently more than 1,300 military personnel, from all U.S. services, at Camp Lemonier, as well as representatives from coalition partners working in the region. The CLE is responsible for daily operations aboard the camp including engineering, communications, supply and security.



4TH FSSG CG VISITS MARINES AND SAILORS AT CAMP LEMONIER

Cpl. Matthew J. Apprendi

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti — Brig. Gen. John W. Bergman, commanding general, 4th Force Service Support Group, Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans and Sgt. Maj. Thomas H. Howard, sergeant major, 4th FSSG, visited the Command Logistics Element, Marine Forces Reserve here Feb. 24.

The CLE, comprised of about 300 Marines, many of them reserves, is operating in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Bergman and Howard toured the camp's facilities and also met with Mr. Donald Y. Yamamoto, U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti, to gain a perspective about

the nation and the importance of CJTF-HOA's presence here and throughout the region.

"They (CLE personnel) are very professional and they're getting the job done - exactly what I expected," Bergman said. "I sensed a positive excitement. They're enjoying their jobs and proud to be here serving their country."

The CJTF-HOA's mission is to detect, disrupt and defeat transnational terrorist groups in the region and support coalition partner efforts to deny the opportunity for reemergence of terrorist networks in the HOA region.

There are currently more than 1,300 military personnel with representatives

from each U.S. service as well as other coalition partners here. The CLE is responsible for the daily operations of the camp including engineering, communications, supply and security.

"The Marines are constantly on their toes, ready for any type of threat - the force protection is that good," Howard said.

"The General's and Sergeant Major's visit here just reiterates to me that we have strong leadership supporting us from home," said Col. Mario LaPaix, commander, CLE. "They'll be able to return to the states and let everyone know that we're completing our mission and the morale is high."



4th CAG prepares to move into Iraq



Cpl. Matthew "Aussie" Orr

Staff Sgt. Larry W. Trimmer, civil affairs NCO, 4th Civil Affairs Group, hands out lentils to local Iraqi women.

Sgt. Rob Henderson

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP RYAN, Kuwait – In keeping with President George W. Bush's promise to aid the Iraqi people, Marines from the 4th Civil Affairs Group (CAG), headquartered at Anacostia Naval Station, Washington, D.C., are preparing to move from here to Task Force Tarawa's forward area in An Nasiriyah, Iraq.

Detachment C, 4th CAG, a group of twelve-Marines, will link up with other 4th CAG Marines in An Nasiriyah who are tasked with creating and maintaining good relationships with the Iraqi people in the areas where they will be assigned during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Our military will definitely devastate the Iraqi military," said Fairfax, Va., native Capt. Brian A. Reynaldo, detachment officer-in-charge, Det. C, 4th CAG. "We want to prove to the Iraqi people that the fight is not against them. It's a war against Saddam Hussein."

The best time to make a good impression is when the coalition forces, moving across the desert, encounter indigenous people who may be fleeing a town or relocating to avoid combat zones, according to Port Tobacco, Md., native Master Sgt.

Jeffery A. Dyson, staff non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, Det. C, 4th CAG.

Because large groups of Iraqis travel together along paved roads, they can create a problem for vehicle convoys trying to travel the same roads. In that instance, the CAG would find the leader of the Iraqi traveling party and through him, negotiate a solution that allows both parties to continue along the road. The goal is to leave the Iraqis in a better condition than when the encounter began.

"Most of the time, we will try to get those travelers linked up with an international organization, like the Red Cross, or a non-government organization, like Doctors Without Borders, so they are taken care of after we move forward," said Reynaldo. "If we can't get them linked up with one of those organizations, we do what we can to help them."

In helping the Iraqis, the civil affairs Marines are trained to maximize any living necessities the people may be traveling with to ensure the Iraqis have what they need to survive the desert environment.

"If we are near a town or even in a town when we encounter civilians, we try to use their assets to assist them," said Dyson. "If they have no assets, we will give them some of whatever we have as a last resort, but everything we give them is something we have to resupply later."

Another key function of civil affairs will be creating hasty refugee camps for Iraqi people who have been displaced by the Iraqi army. A hasty refugee camp ensures the people have a place to live, food to eat and relative comfort in the desert.

"We want to keep these people

together and alive, because it's the humane thing to do," said Arlington, Va., native 1st Lt. Leilani C. Eleccion, team leader, Det. C, 4th CAG. "We want them to be comfortable and to know they are safe with us."

A hasty refugee camp, while enclosed, is not a concentration camp. The civilians living inside are free to come and go as they please as long as they agree to be searched each time they enter the compound. Inside the compound, they are given all the amenities they need to live comfortably and attended to by medical personnel.

In building a hasty refugee camp, civil affairs Marines will have to take into consideration the Moslem laws and customs. For example, single men will have to be housed separate from single women, and the chow hall will not serve any pork products.

Once Det. C reaches Iraq, they can expect to be met with a host of missions, but the Marines are confident that they are up to any task.

"My Marines are ready," said Reynaldo. "After sitting here for a couple of weeks, they want the opportunity to prove themselves and be successful."

CM



Cpl. Matthew "Aussie" Orr

A local girl waits patiently with her mother for food to begin to be distributed.

2/25: None better for possible deployment

Sgt. Rob Henderson

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. - The Reserve Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines (2/25), headquartered here, were called back to active duty March 8 to begin preparations for a deployment to Southwest Asia.

The Marines were deactivated Dec. 10, 2002, after a yearlong deployment to Camp Lejeune, N.C., in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In response to the mounting possibility of war with Iraq, these Marines are now facing another year away from their homes and families.

"These Marines have been called back, because there are none better," said Brig. Gen. John McCarthy, Commanding General, 4th Marine Division. "When we go into combat, we're going to put our best foot forward."

For many Marines and their families, the threat of war is both scary as well as exhilarating. Many Garden City Marines were first-responders to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and any war against terrorism is a personal one due to the unit's loss of a Marine when the North Tower fell.

Corporal Sean P. Tallon, anti-tank assaultman, Javelins Platoon, Weapons Co., 2/25, was not only a Marine, he was a fireman with New York Fire Department, Ladder Company 10. As one of the first crews to respond to the attacks, Ladder Company 10 sustained many casualties, including Tallon.

"It really affects us, because (Tallon) is not here to take part in this (deployment)," said Bronx, N.Y., native Sgt. Terrance D. James, anti-tank assaultman, Javelins Platoon, Weapons Co., 2/25. "When our morale was low, Tallon was always the one who cheered us up with a joke or something funny."

The unit invited friends and families to a "Family Day", hosted by the Vanderbilt Hotel, to help ease the minds of loved ones who are experiencing anxiety towards the upcoming deployment. Throughout the day, one sentiment burned through the sadness of the impending separation: if we go to war, let's do it right this time.

"I definitely support a war against Iraq," said Pamela Furer, mother of 21-year-old Lance Cpl. Joseph J. Wilichoski, anti-armor assistant-gunner, Weapons Co. "I think this (regime change) should've been done a long

time ago, like the first time we fought a war against Iraq."

Also attending the Family Day was Congressman Steve Israel, D-N.Y., who offered words of encouragement to the Marines and their families. Israel, a member of the Armed Forces House Committee, spoke at great length about his fight to improve veteran's benefits.

"While you're over there fighting for us," said Israel, "know that I will be back here fighting for you to get the benefits you have earned. You have fulfilled the obligation you have to our nation, and now, our nation must fill its obligation to you."

After tearful goodbyes, the Marines of 2/25 loaded onto buses for an all-night ride to Camp Lejeune. Once there, the Marines will have final gear issue, participate in training evolutions and ensure all medical and legal affairs are in order before deploying to the United States Central Command's area of responsibility. In the months to come, each member of the unit will be tested mentally, physically and emotionally, but the time they spent training last year will ultimately give way to the successful completion of any mission they are assigned.

"Anyone who wears this uniform today," said McCarthy, "take great pride in yourself. You are the ones who will bring this nation through this crisis safely. We are going to finish this business, and then we are going to bring you home to your families."

CM



Sgt. Rob Henderson

Bronx, N.Y., native Sgt. Hoscarr A. Walters, motor-transport operator, Headquarters and Service Co., 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, guides the driver of a HMMWV onto a flatbed truck prior to 2/25's deployment to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Reserves Create Intelligence Support Battalion

Cpl. Damian J. McGee

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

MARINE FORCES RESERVE, New Orleans —

Marine Forces Reserve has just become the new home for one of the Corps' newest battalions, the Intelligence Support Battalion. This battalion, which was officially stood up on Feb. 8 during a ceremony here, will train and maintain all intelligence disciplines in the reserve to augment active duty forces and national agencies.

"We're making history here," said Lt. Gen. Dennis M. McCarthy, commander, Marine Forces Reserve. "The events of today are just another example of the efforts the reserves are making to ensure readiness in times of war."

Colonel Don Nelson, a reserves from Mobile, Ala. with more than a decade of experience in the intelligence field, will head the new battalion.

"It's a privilege," Nelson said. "I take this appointment very seriously, and I'm going to do the best I can in supporting the warfighter."

The battalion's impact will be three-fold.

The first will be consolidating command and control of all Marine Reserve intelligence assets.

Through this effort, the Marine Corps and the battalion will be able to utilize its resources better, said Nelson.

The second, and most relevant benefit will be devoting more reserve intelligence assets to real-world intelligence efforts. Considering today's international situation, this will give Marines an opportunity to get away from

scenarios and make believe and participate in those things making an impact on the war fighter, and the real world, according to Nelson.

Finally, the battalion will offer better opportunities for career progression for reserve intelligence specialists.

The battalion will consist of five companies: Headquarters and Service Company, New Orleans; Company A, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Company B, Aurora, Colo.; Company C, Dam Neck, Va.; and Company D, Quantico, Va. Within these companies will be Marines specializing in counterintelligence, interrogation, debriefing, imagery analysis, intelligence analysis, signals intelligence, and surveillance sensors.

In addition to the 10 existing Marine Forces Reserve intelligence units, the battalion will add the Individual Mobilization Augmentee detachments at the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, Quantico, Va.; the Marine Support Battalion, Fort Meade, Md.; and Headquarters, Marine Corps. Also, detachments will be established at 27 Joint Reserve Intelligence Centers located nationwide.

Integrated into the battalion will be the existing Marine Forces Reserve G-2 section serving as the Inspector-Instructor staff. While no new active duty billets were created, the recommendation of the Comprehensive Review Group called for a severe streamlining of current Major Subordinate Command billets which in turn provided room for the creation of the necessary billets to run the headquarters company here.

CM

1st Sgt. sacrifices safety for other

On March 18th, 1stSgt James Burnett was presented with the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal by Col. Sward, Regimental Commander, 24th Marines, for his quick reaction in preventing loss of life or serious injury.

Each year the I&I Staff of 3rd Bn 24th Marines participates in a local Toys for Tots paintball event. Brian Burkes was wearing a homemade ghillie suit, constructed from a set of utilities. It caught fire when he attempted to light the fuse on a commercial smoke-producing device.

Disregarding the danger from the burning suit and surrounding grass, Burnett tackled Burkes and began to

roll with him on the ground in an effort to put out the flames. With the assistance from his son, James, and



friend, Scott Bayliff, Burnett managed to put out the fire.

Both Burnett and his son had first-degree burns on their face and hands.

Burkes spent a week in the hospital with skin grafts to one arm and hand, a full recovery is expected. Bill Bailey, former Marine and owner of the paintball field, stated that if the ghillie suit hadn't been removed Burkes would have died from smoke inhalation.

Burnett acted swiftly, at personal risk, to extinguish the fire that had engulfed the man and his heroism in the face of danger is worthy of this award. His actions are true to his nature and demonstrate the ideals he expects in those he leads. James Burnett and Scott Bayliff also received Certificates of Commendation.

Wanted: Marines who are from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio

How would you like to earn a promotion while working in your hometown? Recruiting Station Louisville, Ky., is seeking Marines from Kentucky, southern Indiana and the greater Cincinnati, Oh., area to participate in the Permissive TAD (PTAD) Program. The PTAD Program allows Marines to work in their hometowns for up to 30 days helping local

recruiters in their efforts to fill our ranks. Privates and Privates First Class can get promoted to the next rank, while Lance Corporals and Corporals can earn up to 100 points towards promotion. Openings are available now.

For more information, please contact Sgt. Maj. Leon Jordan, at (502) 582-6612/6610 or via email at: jordanl@4mcd.usmc.mil.

California bar gains member from Camp Commando



Sgt. Colin Wyers

Major David W. Greenlees is sworn in during a small ceremony at Camp Commando.

Sgt. Colin Wyers

I Marine Expeditionary Force

CAMP COMMANDO, Kuwait –

While the Marine Corps has many ceremonies, deployments sometimes offer unique opportunities to participate in other ceremonies.

Major David W. Greenlees, 32, from San Diego, discovered shortly after his arrival at Camp Commando, Kuwait, headquarters of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), that he had been admitted into the California Bar Association, which entitles him to practice law in the state.

“Taking the California Bar Exam is one of the hardest things I’ve ever undertaken,” said Greenlees. “After two months of studying, there was

four months of waiting.

When the bar results posted, I was flying over Paris at the time. I found out November 25, after I got to Camp Commando.”

Greenlees was inducted into the bar by Lt. Gen. James Conway, I MEF commanding general, at a short ceremony Jan. 29.

“What would normally happen is that you select a judge you look up to and go down to the courthouse,”

said Greenlees, a reserves with the I MEF Augmentation Command Element. “But if you’re in the military, and you’re stationed overseas, your CO (commanding officer) can do it.”

At the ceremony, Conway praised Greenlees for his accomplishment.

“As a clerk, he was doing the kinds of things that you would want to see lawyers doing - fighting violent crime, especially among gangs,” said Conway. “I’d say he’s also a pretty brave man, because I know a thousand lawyer jokes.”

Once his time on active duty is up, Greenlees intends to return to the San Diego district attorney’s office, where he served as a graduate law clerk.

“I did medical malpractice my first year of school, and it just didn’t grab

me,” said Greenlees. “Both of my parents were police officers, so I grew up around law enforcement. Nothing is more exciting than going after bad guys, and making communities a safe place.”

Trained as an artillery officer, Greenlees now works as a situation report officer for I MEF, producing daily reports for the commanding general and his staff on the day’s events. He joined the Marine Corps in 1992 after graduating from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

“I received a Naval ROTC scholarship out of high school,” said Greenlees. “At the time, it just seemed like a great opportunity. Once I was in college and saw what it was all about, I knew I wanted to lead Marines.”

Greenlees credits his experience as a Marine with helping him achieve his entrance into the association.

“If I hadn’t had the experience I had in the Marine Corps, I would not have had the self-discipline to go through law school,” said Greenlees. “It’s difficult with children, especially when one of them is born while you’re in school. My experiences in the Marine Corps were able to help me prioritize.”

CM

Corps says 'be mine'; Captain leaves blossoming billet

Cpl. Lana D. Waters

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP PENDLETON – It's the day before Valentine's Day; do you know where your florist is?

Heather A. Lee, vice president of Inland Wholesale Flowers, Inc., of San Bernardino isn't where she thought she'd be.

After leaving Marine Corps active duty in May 2001, Lee thought she had packed away her uniforms for good. She returned to her family's multi-million-dollar floral business and put memories of being a Marine behind her.

Then, on Jan. 18, she received a letter calling her back to active duty.

"I was in shock," Lee said. "It felt like my entire life had been taken away from me."

The letter ordered Lee to the initial mobilization processing center in Encino by Feb. 4 – just two weeks away.

"I had to find someone to take care of my dogs and my house. I also take care of my grandmother when my mom is out of town," she said. "I'm just glad I didn't have any kids."

However, she does have employees and customers. She broke

the news to them.

"My dad is pretty much retired, so I ran the business," said the wholesale florist. "Now it's up to my 25 employees to keep the ball rolling while I'm gone. I've had a lot of support from them. They keep thinking that I just wanted to get out of the Valentine's Day rush and I will be coming back right afterward."

But business will have to continue blooming without her. Lee's orders commit her to active duty for 365 days.

As part of her initial obligation to the Corps, Lee, a captain, agreed to serve six years of active duty and two years in the Individual Ready Reserve. She never imagined she would be called up.

"Ever since Sept. 11, I've been getting calls to ask if I want to come back to active duty, which I really wasn't interested in doing," the Grand Terrace native said. "But now that I'm back, I'm going to make the most of it."

She plans to give "100 percent" to the Corps, she said.

When the time came to rejoin the Marine Corps, the process went faster than Lee expected.

"I went to Encino expecting to have a week before I had to check

in," she said. "They told me to report to Camp Pendleton in four hours. I wasn't prepared to spend the night in a quonset hut. It really blew me away."

The florist-turned-personnel-officer and assistant adjutant for the Reserve Support Unit said she was surprised how much she remembered about her job as a Marine.

"A lot of things have changed, so right now we are getting spun up on what we need to do," said Lee.

Although the transition was unexpected, Lee said everything is going fine.

"I thought of it as a disruption to my life, but everyone has a pretty good attitude overall," Lee said.

The job switch isn't the only adjustment – she's also taking a pay cut.

"I'm not taking a paycheck from my business. I can't justify it to myself to take money out of the business for work that I'm not doing," she said.

Simply returning to her bustling business of buds and bouquets will be ample reward.

"I really love my job," Lee said about her floral business.

"I can't wait to get back to it."

CM

On April 24, members of the Peacetime Wartime Support Team and the Marine Corps Site Support Element at Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee, Mass., interned a time capsule into the new Marine Reserve Training Center, (MRTC), which is currently under construction. It will be the future home of MASS-6 and MWSS 472 Det B.

The lead-coated copper capsule contains numerous items which should be of interest to Marines of the 22nd Century. Contents include unit coins, patches, Leatherneck Magazines, chevrons, local newspapers covering the tragedy of September 11, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom. Other items included the venerable issued metal canteen cup, some dry MRE contents, Marine Corps shirt, coffee mug,

pens, money, and the book "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu. Additionally, various media photos and news articles on local Marines, information on the Westover Young Marine program, and Westover Air Reserve Base were included.

Master Sgt. Lee Forester, the PWST SNCOIC, built and compiled the contents of this capsule with the help of Lt. Col. Emmitt Brewington, the OIC, and Sgt. Sherry Haetinger, PWST PAO. Marines from both units helped to contribute various items to fill this capsule.

After placing the sealed and wrapped capsule into the exterior north wall, masons bricked over the enclosure. A bronze plaque will mark the exact location. Volmar Construction Company of Brooklyn New York expects to complete the MRTC by October of 2003.

NASCAR visits Greensboro

Sgt. Jennifer M. Antoine

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

GREENSBORO, N.C. – The Marines of Communications Company and Det Headquarters, Headquarters Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, here, were treated to special guests while preparing for mobilization to Southwest Asia in mid January.

NASCAR legends Rusty Wallace and John Andretti stopped to thank the Marines for the contribution they are making for their country. The drivers, on their way to a Winston-Salem race, wanted to show their support for the North Carolina Marines.

As the Marines were taking care of final deployment details, the drivers spent time signing autographs and taking pictures with them.

Although the unit has already left for Southwest Asia



Photo courtesy of Communications Co. and Det. Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Btl, 4th FSSG, Greensboro, N.C.

and the NASCAR season is in full swing, you can guarantee that Wallace and Andretti have a few more fans rooting for them.



Mother, Son stay active together

Cpl. Lana D. Waters

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – A woman serving her country in the Marine Corps is a pretty rare occurrence, but not as rare as a female Marine who has a son in the Marines serving on active duty at the same time.

Reserve Gunnery Sgt. Donna L. Stehley and her son Cpl. Don E. Stehley, Jr., are one such example. A mom, called back to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, at home, and a son, awaiting the word “war,” in Kuwait; both serving a single mission, but in very different ways.

Donna Stehley started her Marine Corps career in 1979, when she served four years on active duty. Upon her deactivation, she continued on in the selected Marine Corps reserves for the next 12 years, and then dropped to Individual Ready Reserve Marine status. Within days after the horrific events of Sept. 11, the wife and mother of three received the FedEx letter stating she was being called back to active duty.

“Initially it came as a shock. I

hadn’t been in uniform in three and a half years,” said Stehley. “I heard President Bush’s speech talking about every man and every woman in uniform, but I didn’t think that would include me. I was feeling very vulnerable”

Stehley’s world was turned upside down. Nine months prior, she and her family bought a new house in Morgantown, WV, and hadn’t completely settled in yet. She had to find before and after school childcare for her two daughters, Andrea and Vicki, and had to get someone to take care of the home. There was a lot to do and a short time to do it in.

However, these were just the beginning of her worries.

Five years ago, Don Stehley decided to follow in his mothers footsteps and become one of the few, the proud.

“This was his own decision, but I supported him 100%,” his mother said.

After her own activation, Donna Stehley soon realized her 25 year old active duty Marine with 2nd Transportation Support Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp

Lejeune, NC, had the possibility of being sent to southwest Asia to fight a war. When the word came early this year that he was leaving for Kuwait on Jan. 4, her fears became a reality.

“I’m no different than any other mother whose son is going into harms way,” said Stehley, with a look of sorrow on her face. “I am equally as concerned, but I understand because (as Marines) this is what we do.”

Since he left last month, Donna Stehley has received one phone call from her son.

“He had a serious tone in his voice, but he sounded motivated,” said the Marine mom. “He’s really doing well off loading ships over there. I’m so proud of him. I’d like to extend him a big ooh rah and also my love.”

With Gunnery Sgt. Stehley back on active duty working as the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the mobilization-processing center, here, and Cpl. Stehley serving his country in a land that’s not so free, this mother-son duo is really a Marine Corps team.



COMPUTER WIZ RECALLED BY CORPS

Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Not all Marines decide to make a career in the Corps, but in some instances the Corps helps a Marine make a career.

“Joining the Marines taught me more about my life and helped me decide what I wanted to do with it,” said Sgt. Pete J. Blair, Information Systems Management Office chief, Reserve Support Unit/Mobilization Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Blair, a Meigs County, Tenn., native, graduated from First Coast High School in Jacksonville, Fla., and earned a physics scholarship to the University of Florida. He turned it down, however, to join the Marines like his older brother, who fought in the Gulf War.

“I believe every person should be in the military and serve their country for some part of their life,” said Blair.

Blair was stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., with what was then called Marine Corps

Computer Telecommunications Activity, Headquarters and Service Battalion, as a computer programmer, developing applications to support the Marine Corps.

“I was always toying with computers throughout high school, reading computer books and trying new software,” remarked Blair. “But I never did any official schooling for computers except for what I learned in the Corps.”

Blair finished his five-year enlistment in Quantico and was honorably discharged from the Corps. He stayed in Virginia where he met his wife, the former Lyna Kim.

After bouncing around from a couple of computer companies, Blair scheduled an interview for a software engineer position with Northrop Grumman Information Technology.

“When I got the acceptance letter in the mail saying I got the job, I was very happy,” said Blair. “This job was exactly what I had trained and worked for while in the Marines and in my career outside of the Corps.”

Blair was even more intrigued by the proposed starting pay he would receive once he accepted the job offer. His salary was the equivalent of a 17-year colonel.

“I was happy, to say the least,” smiled Blair.

After nearly one year at Northrop Grumman, Blair and his wife had just bought a new house in February 2003 when he got another surprising letter in the mail. This one, however, was not as celebrated.

“I was shocked,” explained Blair. “It just never occurred to me the possibility of being called back to duty (existed).”

After a year and a half out of the Corps, Blair was activated and assigned to the RSU/MSB here.

“I was a little despondent, but I knew I had a job to do,” said Blair. “I knew my wife would eventually understand, but I was concerned about my job and my house.”

Northrop Grumman put Blair’s worries to rest quickly when it notified him his position would remain open for the duration of his activation, and he would receive a salary covered by the difference of his civilian and military pay.

“I love the company,” exclaimed Blair. “I don’t know of many companies who would be that helpful.”

Blair made the rough transition back to the structured Marine working environment as part of a four-man office responsible for computer support in more than six buildings. Although he didn’t volunteer for the job, Blair has no complaints doing a job the Corps needed done.

“The Corps took care of me before and helped get me where I am now,” explained Blair, “so now it’s my turn to take care of the Corps and get our Marines ready so they can take care of the country.”



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Sergeant Pete J. Blair, Information Systems Management Office, RSU/MSB, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, troubleshoots the Land Area Network connections in the building to ensure proper operation.



1/25 PREPARES FOR NBC ATTACKS

Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs Office

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Reserve Marines with 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 2nd Marine Division began a rigorous training schedule here Feb. 10 after activating in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other contingencies that may arise.

Since Reserve Marines are only afforded a limited amount of time and training facilities at their reserve sites, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines is taking advantage of the opportunities here, including training for nuclear, biological and chemical warfare.

“Instead of accomplishing just the minimal requirements for any particular training element, the Marines are now able to reach the maximum potential of their abilities,” said Maj. Lew J. Jones, commanding officer, Company C, 1st Battalion.

Enabling the Marines to be proficient on the battlefield, the unit is refreshing its skills in the Big 7, consisting of seven basic Marine training exercises: rifle qualification, pistol qualification, swim qualification, the Marine Corps martial arts program, basic skills training, a physical fitness test, and NBC defense training.

Nuclear, Biological and Chemical defense exercises are a significant component of the training evolution with the recent worldwide threats. Marines receive this type of training in “boot camp” and Marine Combat Training; however, reserve Marines with 1st Battalion have rarely received sustained NBC defense training since then due to the lack of facilities and equipment. The training environments found here allow the Marines the opportunity to advance in their skills.

“Instead of being at a phase where we are crawling, we are now training at a level where we can walk and then advance to a point where we can run with it,” said Chief Warrant Officer-2 Jim L. Bailey Jr., NBC defense officer, 1st Battalion. “We borrowed the package used by the active-duty Marines here for our training.”

Instructors gave classes on chemical warfare and the correct procedures for Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear, consisting of a field protective mask, over garments, protective gloves and protective boot covers. With proper



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

1/25 Marines wait in line full MOPP gear to enter the gas chamber as part of their NBC training.

use, the gear will shield the Marine from the dangers of a chemical or biological agent.

“It’s extremely critical for the Marines to know the procedures for accurate use of the MOPP gear,” said Cpl. Kevin A. Boswell, NBC defense chief, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion. “We are here to train them well and train them safe.”

The Marines also learned how to properly use MOPP gear before entering the gas chamber and experiencing an environment with a riot control agent called 0-chlorobenzalmalononitrile, or CS gas. The Marines

removed their masks and exposed themselves to the immediate effects of the tear gas: burning eyes, nose and throat; coughing; mucus secretion and nausea. They replaced and cleared their masks and then exited the chamber. Upon exiting the chamber, the Marines ran an NBC trail of obstacles while in full gear and, when finished, each assisted a fellow Marine in properly removing MOPP gear.

“The gas chamber and course are used to build a Marine’s confidence for the possibility of a real encounter,” said Bailey. “Properly trained Marines with proper equipment won’t have a problem in an NBC environment.”

The Marines will continue in the Big 7, round-robin training, qualifying in the other exercises once they have completed the required NBC training.

“We are all proud to be Marines in our unit and to have the opportunity to prove our worth to the active-duty Marines in Camp Lejeune, where I believe is the ‘hub’ of the Corps,” said Bailey.



Cpl. Ryan J. Skaggs

As part of the training, Marines ran an obstacle course in full MOPP gear.

